



## ***Labor and Public Employees Committee***

February 18, 2021

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 99% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 5952      An Act Eliminating Undue Delay in the Payment of Workers' Compensation Awards**

CCM opposes HB 5952, which would assess a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars per day on a losing party in a workers' compensation action when the losing party is found to be in violation of not paying the winning party due to undue delay.

The proposed legislation is an unnecessary unfunded mandate. Currently, under the Workers' Compensation Act, the Workers' Compensation Commission has the authority to assess interest and penalties due to untimely payments. The Commissioner also has the authority to set claims down for emergency hearings to ensure treatment is timely. The bill is also overly vague and questions remain whether the injured employee would receive the two hundred fifty dollars per day, or the injured employee's attorney. Furthermore, what constitutes "undue delay"?

This bill would increase litigation and the overall costs to the Workers' Compensation system, plus the Workers' Compensation Commission already has the tools to remedy situations where it is deemed that payments are untimely. CCM finds the bill to be unnecessary with very little benefit. Accordingly, CCM opposes the bill in its entirety.

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If you have any questions, please contact Zach McKeown, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM.